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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



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DRY EDIBLE PEAS (Page 126)

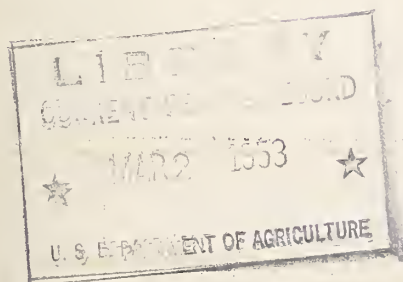
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FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

FEBRUARY 16, 1953



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

L A T E N E W S

Announcement was made by the Government of India on January 17, 1953, of the withdrawal of its decision of November 1952 which permitted the conversion of outstanding import licenses for United States cotton into licenses for the import of equivalent quantities of nondollar cotton. Outstanding licenses for United States imports may be used until June 30, 1953. In effect this new decision means that outstanding import licenses for dollar cotton (including that purchased but not yet delivered) will be invalidated after June 30 if not used by that date, and the total import quota for the first half of 1953 will be reduced by the amount involved in unused licenses.

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The 1952-53 cotton crop in the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil, is officially estimated (first estimate) at 1,048,000 bales (500 pounds gross) compared with about 1,500,000 bales in the preceding season.

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Preparations are being made by the Directors of the Liverpool Cotton Exchange for reopening the Liverpool cotton market as soon as circumstances permit. These preparations involve current arrangements for necessary personnel, management, and capital so that operations can be resumed quickly at such time in the future as the British Government may permit the free convertibility of sterling.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to inform producers, processors, distributors and consumers of farm products of current developments abroad in the crop and livestock industries, foreign trends in prices and consumption of farm products, and world agricultural trade. Circulation of this periodical is free to persons in the U.S. needing the information it contains in farming, business and professional operations. Issued by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

IMPORTS OF RAW COTTON INTO BELGIUM BELOW LAST YEAR

Imports of raw cotton into Belgium during August-November 1952, the latest months for which official statistics are available, totaled 108,000 bales (500 pounds gross) compared with 142,000 bales during the comparable period a year earlier. Of the 1952-53 imports, 40,000 bales were received from the United States, 20,000 from the Belgian Congo, and 15,000 from Mexico. This compares with 92,000 bales, 31,000 bales, and 5,000 bales, respectively, from these countries within the comparable period a year earlier.

BELGIUM: Imports of cotton from major countries of origin;
average 1945-49; annual 1949-50, 1950-51, 1951-52;
August-November 1951 and 1952

Country of origin	Year beginning August 1				August-November	
	Average 1945-49	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52	1951	1952
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Belgian Congo...	85	86	120	75	31	20
Brazil.....	32	1/	2	1	1	1/
Egypt.....	12	13	23	7	1	3
India.....	47	12	4	1	0	7
Mexico.....	10	44	62	14	5	15
Peru.....	18	25	30	22	10	10
Turkey.....	4	12	7	1	1/	1/
United Kingdom..	9	1/	1/	1/	0	0
United States...	130	245	153	310	92	40
Others.....	15	18	2/ 53	5	2	13
Total.....	362	455	454	436	142	108

1/ Less than 500 bales. 2/ Includes Argentina 10, Pakistan 8, Syria and Lebanon 10.

U.S. Foreign Service Reports.

The consumption of raw cotton in Belgian spinning mills thus far during the current season has been at a lower rate than in the first half of 1951-52 but somewhat higher than during the latter half of that season. Consumption during August-October 1952, the latest months for which official statistics are available, totaled nearly 98,000 bales (500 pounds gross), a decline of about 32,000 bales from the amount consumed during the comparable period a year earlier. It appears, in view of the reduction in yarn production, that consumption during November 1952 was probably at a somewhat lower rate than in October. Even though consumption thus far in 1952-53 has been below last season, it has been at least 20,000 bales higher than the amounts imported. Stocks of raw cotton at mills on November 30, 1952, totaled 95,000 bales, about three months' supply at current rates of operation. Stocks on hand at the beginning of the present season (August 1, 1952) amounted to 118,000 bales.

The production of yarn in Belgian spinning mills during November 1952 totaled 18.4 million pounds, a reduction of 2.5 million pounds from the preceding month. Stocks of cotton yarn at spinning mills were practically unchanged during November, amounting to 12.8 million pounds at the end of the month. Yarn stocks at weaving mills also remained at about the same level in November, totaling 16.3 million pounds on November 30, 1952. Stocks of cotton fabric increased from 21.8 million pounds at the beginning of November to 22.1 million at the end of the month.

TAPIOCA BECOMING IMPORTANT AS SUBSIDIARY FOOD IN INDIA

The shortage of cereals in India has underscored the need for increasing use of subsidiary foods, according to Clifford C. Taylor, Agricultural Counselor, American Embassy, New Delhi. In that connection, tapioca has assumed increasing importance as a noncereal food. Factors contributing to its growing popularity include its higher yield per acre compared with wheat and rice, and the ease with which it can be produced. It can be grown by planting cuttings or stumps which require little subsequent care. Boiled and sun-dried tapioca can be kept in good condition for more than a year.

At present, tapioca is grown largely in the United State of Travancore and Cochin, and to a lesser extent in the Salem, North Arcot, Tanjore, and Tiruchirappalli districts of the Madras State and in certain parts of Malabar. It is estimated that about 550,000 acres are in tapioca in all of India, of which about 200,000 acres are in Travancore-Cochin and the balance in the rest of south India. With yields of around 5 tons per acre in Travancore-Cochin and about 3 tons per acre in other parts of south India, total annual production is estimated at 2,650,000 tons of green tubers. A research station operating under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is developing improved varieties at Trivandrum in Travancore-Cochin.

Before World War II no serious attention was devoted to the use of subsidiary foods whenever rice shortages developed in South India. The rice shortages were easily made up by importing rice from Burma. However, when supplies of Burma rice were cut off by the Japanese invasion of Burma, the use of tapioca as a subsidiary food gradually became popular among the people. Laborers in parts of Travancore-Cochin are now living on a quarter of their prewar rice consumption, and the balance is being met mainly by tapioca and by adding to the diet small amounts of fish and gram to make up the protein deficiency.

A planter from Travancore-Cochin stated that on his estate laborers who formerly received a ration of 15 pounds of rice per week are now receiving 5 pounds of rice and 25 pounds of tapioca. This indicates that 25 pounds of tapioca can replace 10 pounds of cleaned rice. On that basis, the estimated annual production of 2.5 million tons in Travancore-Cochin could effect an annual saving of 1,000,000 tons of rice.

Experiments have been underway for a long time at the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, for the manufacture of synthetic rice, using tapioca and peanut meals as raw materials. Recently, the Government of India ordered an investigation of the possibility of large-scale production of synthetic rice on an economic basis. The immediate objective is to produce 20 to 30 tons of synthetic rice daily but an annual output of 500,000 tons has been set as the objective. If these plans work out, large quantities of tapioca will have to be provided for the manufacture of synthetic rice.

Prices of tapioca roots have almost doubled in recent years. This is attributed to various factors, such as the prevailing high price of foodgrains, competition for supplies of tapioca roots among tapioca globule manufacturers and the manufacture of other products, such as starch, for which tapioca roots constitute the raw material.

In view of the prevailing food shortage, exports of tapioca are prohibited from Travancore-Cochin, the main producing area. Imports of tapioca or tapioca products from sources outside of India are regulated by the Central Government with due regard to the domestic production and the prospects for its further expansion.

As in the case of most other agricultural products, the per acre yield of tapioca roots in India is extremely low compared with yields obtained in such tapioca producing countries as Java, Malaya and the Philippines. The belief, is, however, that with suitable research and government assistance the acreage yield can be increased to 10 to 15 tons of undried roots as against present yields of only 3 to 5 tons per acre.

In view of the increased use of tapioca roots in various forms in India it will be necessary to bring about a large increase in the area devoted to that crop if all of requirements are to be met.

SUGAR NOTES

Cuba. The National Association of Sugar Mill Owners recently released acreage data which indicates that there is sufficient sugarcane now available for harvest to produce about 8.6 million short tons of sugar at an estimated average sugarcane yield of 18.2 tons per acre (average for 1952 - 19.0 tons per acre) and an estimated sugar yield of 12.131 percent (1952 sugar yield - 12.20 percent). The total area of 3.89 million acres planted to sugarcane for harvest in 1953, as contrasted with 3.63 million acres in 1952, represents a new high for land planted to sugarcane in Cuba. Because of the restriction on the 1953 crop to 5,680,000 short tons, it is doubtful that more than 2.8-2.9 million acres will be harvested in 1953, (about a 90-day grinding season), leaving an estimated 995,000 acres unharvested.

The Philippines. The Philippine Sugar Association estimates the 1952-53 centrifugal sugar production at 1,261,000 short tons. An estimated loss of 47,000 tons resulted principally from the typhoon damage in Luzon and the Visayas and dry weather during the early spring. The 1951-52 revised production is 1,076,000 short tons. Production for 1952-53 will fully cover the export quota to the United States of 952,000 short tons and the domestic consumption quota of 280,000 tons. There is a possibility that a further 20,000 to 30,000 tons may be available for export from the 1953 crop.

WORLD DRY EDIBLE PEA PRODUCTION LOW IN 1952-53 1/

Production of dry edible peas in the 1952-53 season in 31 selected countries is estimated (preliminary) at 14.8 million bags, 10 percent less than last year, 25 percent less than the postwar (1945-49) average and 6 percent less than the prewar (1935-39) average. Nearly all of the reduction was in the United States and Eastern Europe.

North America: The drop in the United States of 1.2 million bags below the 1951 crop was mostly the result of smaller acreage. The 1952 acreage was 28 percent below last season, 51 percent below the 1945-49 average and 5 percent below prewar. Canadian production was up 20 percent above last season and 35 percent below prewar. Growing conditions in the 1952 season were favorable in both the United States and Canada. Yields per acre were near record proportions.

Western Europe: Every producing country in Western Europe, except the United Kingdom, reports less peas produced and less acreage planted to peas than before the war. Except the United Kingdom, the 1952 acreage and production in Western Europe is about 20 percent below prewar. The 1952 season was very favorable in parts of Western Europe, notably in the area around Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. These countries report 1952 yields per acre as high as 50 percent above the rather favorable yields of the previous season. Yields were below last season in the areas around Germany, France, Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom but were above the postwar average. Acreage and production of peas in the United Kingdom, while not as high in most of the postwar years, is still far above prewar.

Eastern Europe: The 1952 season was very unfavorable for most crops in Eastern Europe. Droughty conditions were reported more severe than in the very bad year of 1950 when Yugoslavia, usually a net exporter of beans, imported sizable quantities of both beans and peas from the United States. In this connection it may be noted that rumors of likely purchases of beans and of peas in the United States by Yugoslavia in the 1952-53 season have not, as of this writing, resulted in any exports in that direction.

Other areas: The above mentioned areas, North America, Western Europe and Eastern Europe, produced in 1952 about 82 percent of the total dry edible pea crop estimated for the 31 countries. The largest single producing country, China, which usually produces 4 times as many peas as the 31 selected countries combined is excluded from the foregoing estimates because of lack of reliable data and because adding the China estimate would bias the total. The 1952 crop year in China was considered generally favorable. Japan reported a crop about equal to the 1951 season.

1/ A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

Continent and country	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Average		1951	Average		1951	Average		1951
	1935-39	1945-49		1935-39	1945-49		1935-39	1945-49	
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
NORTH AMERICA									
Canada.....	85	98	37	948	967	1,208	1,233	948	530
Mexico.....	12	18	20	342	467	495	440	84	88
United States.....	223	435	294	1,152	1,185	1,296	1,237	5,154	2,610
Total.....	320	551	351	1,068	1,123	1,241	1,178	6,186	3,228
EUROPE									
Austria.....	12	7	5	1,217	929	1,200	1,000	146	65
Belgium and Luxembourg.....	19	21	18	2,163	1,890	1,750	2,627	411	397
Finland.....	30	26	20	1,297	1,054	1,215	1,152	389	274
France.....	50	72	54	1,410	1,318	1,507	1,385	705	949
Germany, Western Zone.....	33	75	26	1,536	1,131	1,465	1,371	507	848
Italy.....	59	49	46	678	508	617	557	400	249
Netherlands.....	91	64	64	2,569	1,786	2,623	2,966	2,338	1,143
Norway.....	2	2	1	1,950	1,700	2,400	2,600	39	34
Spain.....	134	116	103	575	384	518	400	771	446
Sweden.....	34	38	30	1,329	1,203	1,337	1,418	452	457
United Kingdom.....	20	164	117	1,680	955	1,715	1,653	336	2,567
Yugoslavia.....	13	21	27	1,062	1,038	807	600	138	218
Total above.....	497	655	511	1,334	1,167	1,362	1,369	6,632	7,647
Other Europe.....	259	377	355	1,117	833	752	597	2,894	2,140
Total Europe.....	756	1,032	866	2,451	1,045	1,111	1,047	9,526	10,787
ASIA									
Turkey.....	7	4	3	535	440	961	961	36	16
Japan.....	101	15	35	889	887	1,080	1,085	898	133
South Korea.....	3	2	1	669	400	397	550	20	8
Total.....	111	21	39	859	748	1,062	1,066	954	157
SOUTH AMERICA									
Argentina.....	25	41	49	800	961	449	500	200	394
Chile.....	71	46	51	706	678	602	600	501	312
Uruguay.....	2	2	2	500	550	500	500	10	11
Total.....	98	89	102	726	806	526	549	711	717
AFRICA									
Algeria.....	18	23	23	544	400	487	383	98	92
French Morocco.....	79	162	151	533	507	482	614	421	852
Union of South Africa.....	9	19	14	1,351	616	736	667	119	117
Total.....	106	204	188	602	505	502	589	638	1,031
OCEANIA									
Australia.....	29	12	13	776	1,025	1,192	1,000	225	123
New Zealand.....	18	45	27	1,578	1,500	1,589	1,600	284	675
Total.....	47	57	40	1,083	1,400	1,460	1,400	509	798
WORLD TOTAL (excluding China).....									
	1,438	1,954	1,586	1,489	1,096	1,038	994	15,755	19,676
CHINA.....	6,558	7,856	8,026	832	818	816	833	54,267	62,518
1/ Preliminary									62,000

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information. Years refer to year of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere and include the harvest immediately following in the Southern Hemisphere. Averages are for years stated or for the nearest comparable period. Yields have been calculated on basis of unrounded estimates of acreages for countries of small production.

Much of the 1952-53 production arising in Africa, South America and Oceania is yet to be harvested. It constitutes less than 20 percent of the total production of the 31 selected countries. Production in these areas is forecast at about 10 percent above last season. Production in South America has declined to about 25 percent below the prewar average and in Oceania and Africa it has increased above prewar levels by about 25 percent and 65 percent respectively.--By Orval E. Goodsell, based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

CONSUMPTION OF COTTON IN ITALY BELOW LAST SEASON

The consumption of raw cotton in Italian spinning mills during August-November 1952 totaled about 275,000 bales (500 pounds gross). This was a decline of approximately 35,000 bales from the quantity consumed during the comparable period a year earlier, but the rate was somewhat above the low level of the latter part of 1951-52. Consumption during 1951-52 totaled 390,000 bales compared with 985,000 bales in 1950-51.

Imports of raw cotton into Italy during August-October 1952, the latest months for which complete data are available, totaled 176,000 bales (500 pounds gross), an increase of 95,000 bales over the comparable period a year earlier. Of the current season's imports, 85,000 bales originated in the United States, 48,000 bales in Egypt, and 24,000 bales in Turkey. Although official import statistics are not available since October 1952, it appears that imports from the United States have been at a higher rate during the past 3 months than during August-October 1952. Imports from the United States, Egypt, and Turkey during August-October 1951 totaled 55,000 bales, 9,000 bales, and 3,000 bales, respectively. Imports during the latter part of 1951-52 were considerably larger than the amounts consumed. This resulted in the building-up of stocks from a 1951-52 seasonal low of 208,000 bales in December 1951 to 395,000 bales at the beginning of the current season (August 1, 1952). Stocks were reduced perhaps as much as 50,000 bales during the first 4 months of the current season as the amounts consumed in this period exceeded those imported by at least this extent. Present supplies are probably equivalent to about 5 months' working stock at present rates of mill operation.

The exports of cotton goods, upon which the Italian cotton textile industry depends to a considerable extent, have been somewhat higher during the first several months of the current season than in the last half of 1951-52. During September 1952 a total of 4.1 million pounds of yarn and 3.0 million pounds of fabrics was exported. The latest available figures for October 1952 place yarn and fabric exports at 5.7 and 3.7 million pounds, respectively. Yarn exports during both September and October 1952 were above the 1951-52 monthly average of 4.7 million pounds, but fabric exports in these months were considerably below last season's monthly average of 5.0 million pounds. Textile inventories, although reduced somewhat during the first quarter of 1952-53, are still on a relatively high level. This, together with the fact that domestic sales during the fall of 1952 did not reach the levels anticipated by some representatives of the trade, is causing some pessimism in the textile industry.

The decline in textile exports during the latter part of 1951-52 reflects the effects of the limitations imposed by the United Kingdom and France on imports of Italian textiles because of the unfavorable balance of trade and foreign exchange positions of these countries. During the past season only 16 percent of Italian textile production was exported in contrast to the usual exports of 30 to 40 percent.

CONSUMPTION OF RAW COTTON IN SPAIN ABOUT SAME AS LAST SEASON

The consumption of raw cotton in Spanish spinning mills during August-December 1952 totaled 146,000 bales (500 pounds gross), practically unchanged from the amounts consumed (145,000 bales) during the comparable period a year ago. Consumption during 1951-52 totaled 375,000 bales. Consumption during August 1952 (first month of the current season) totaled only 24,000 bales, which was the low point for the summer period, but increased to 30,000 and 34,000 bales, respectively, in September and October. These increases may be partially attributed to seasonal factors. Many farm products were sold by farmers during this period, thus increasing the purchasing power for goods, including textiles. Consumption has "leveled off" somewhat since October, totaling 29,000 bales during both November and December. There have been no reported shut-downs for lack of power this season, and the labor supply has been generally adequate for mill requirements.

Imports during August-December 1952 totaled 135,000 bales compared with 159,000 bales during the comparable period a year earlier. Of this season's imports, 66,000 bales were received from the United States and 47,000 bales from Egypt, compared with 118,000 bales and 15,000 bales, respectively, from these countries during this period a year earlier. Although imports from the United States thus far in 1952-53 have been relatively small, it is anticipated that larger quantities of United States cotton may be imported in the next several months.

The supply situation during the first several months of the current season was generally satisfactory except that the supply of certain types and grades of cotton was reported at times to be inadequate. Stocks on hand in all positions at the beginning of the current season totaled 44,000 bales (excluding free port stocks) which are probably about average but above the amounts held on this date during the two preceding seasons. The quantities consumed during August-December 1952 exceeded those imported by about 11,000 bales, but this difference may have been largely offset by receipts of cotton from the local crop.

U.K. WINTER
WHEAT ACREAGE UP

The winter wheat acreage seeded up to December 4, 1952 in the United Kingdom was 1,602,000 acres, an increase of about 17 percent over the 1,372,000 acres seeded at the same time a year earlier, according to the American Embassy, London. Normally about 200,000 acres of spring wheat are grown. If the spring wheat seedings are about average, the total wheat acreage for 1953 would be about 2,200,000 acres. This compares with 2,030,000 acres harvested last year and the prewar average (1935-39) of 1,843,000 acres. A record acreage of 2,479,000 acres was reported in 1950.

The increase over last year's low winter wheat acreage is attributed to the more favorable seeding weather and the Government's program to stimulate grain production, especially by means of a plow-up subsidy. Prospective elimination of controls on the grain and feed trades may result in an over-all increase in grain acreage. Grains, other than wheat, are sown chiefly in the spring.

Following the very favorable seeding weather early in the fall, wet, cold weather caused some concern for the development of the crop. Latest information, however, indicates that the wet winter with less than usual sunshine has not harmed the crop, except in flooded places.

The Government announced in January that controls over the grain and feed trades will be terminated with the 1953 harvest. This is in accord with the announced policy of decontrol of trade and industry wherever possible. The chief provisions of the measure include the following: (1) Buying of imported and domestic grains and feeds will be returned to private operation after 14 years of Government monopoly; (2) Price Controls will be terminated on grains and feeds. However, ceiling prices will continue on the so-called "National loaf" made of 80 percent extraction flour; (3) Feed subsidies will be eliminated and the subsidy on flour and bread reduced to that needed for the national loaf; (4) Feed rationing will end; (5) Bakers will be permitted to turn out products made of flour of any extraction rate, instead of being restricted to the existing 80 percent rate.

As a result of the last named provision whiter bread and other products will be produced. Since the national loaf, made of 80 percent extraction flour, will continue to be sold at controlled and subsidized prices, however, the whiter products will be competing with a somewhat lower priced bread.

Imports of grain from outside the sterling area will continue to be restricted to safeguard the balance-of-payments position. The Government is to consult with farmers and the trade on arrangements for turning the grain industry over to private operation. It is provided that the Ministry of Food will continue to buy supplies from producers offered under existing arrangements. The problem of how to assure guaranteed prices to producers will be reviewed, the Government continuing such guarantees.

This decision to decontrol grains and feeds represents the major postwar change in the food industry in shifting from Government to private operation. It is noted that the impact of derationing, price decontrol, and other measures will be far reaching in affecting production changes and costs of livestock as well as affecting the balance of payments.

It is hoped that by decontrolling the feed industry, farmers will be given an incentive to expand production of feeds and livestock especially as a result of higher prices and non-restricted use. This would help in the country's attempts to become more self reliant with regard to food and would ease its balance of payments difficulties.

SWEDEN'S FALL-SOWN GRAIN AREA LARGER

Sweden's fall seeded acreage of breadgrains for harvest in 1953 is considerably larger than the small acreage seeded a year ago, according to the American Embassy, Stockholm. The increase of about 25 percent in wheat and rye combined over the previous year is mainly attributed to more favorable seeding weather this fall in most parts of Sweden. Fall seeding weather was unfavorable in each of the past 2 years.

The current winter wheat acreage is estimated at 512,000 acres, compared with 386,000 seeded in the fall of 1951 and 405,000 in the fall of 1950. Winter rye acreage for harvest in 1953 is reported at 352,000 acres. This is well above the seedings of the past 2 years, with 301,000 acres and 266,000 acres reported for 1951 and 1950, respectively.

Development of fall-sown grain acreage is somewhat retarded following cold rainy weather in late fall. Lack of snow-cover up to the end of January left the crop susceptible to possible frost damage.

LIVESTOCK NUMBERS IN FRANCE LEVEL OFF

French livestock numbers of all species, with the exception of sheep, are down slightly from 1951 levels according to preliminary estimates of the Ministry of Agriculture. Total cattle numbers are down somewhat from the 1951 levels which were about 5 percent above prewar after a gradual increase due to favorable meat prices throughout the postwar period. However, cows and young stock, 1 year and older, are slightly above last year, indicating potential further increases in cattle, particularly in the dairy breeds.

Reduced hog numbers lend further evidence that meat supply and demand are in approximate balance with no upward pressure on meat prices.

(Table on following page)

FRANCE: Livestock numbers as of October 1, 1952,
with comparison

Classification	1938	1950	1951	1952 1/
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
<u>Cattle:</u>				
Bulls and oxen.....	1,517	1,346	1,338	1,276
Cows.....	8,732	8,164	8,424	8,478
Young stock:				
1 year and over.....	3,113	3,537	3,609	3,636
Under 1 year.....	2,260	2,754	2,869	2,804
Total cattle....	15,622	15,801	16,240	16,194
<u>Hogs:</u>				
Sows.....	875	854	874	881
Boars.....	40	40	40	41
Other over 6 months....	2,581	2,446	2,553	2,400
Pigs under 6 months....	3,631	3,484	3,755	3,832
Total hogs.....	7,127	6,824	7,222	7,154
<u>Sheep:</u>				
Ewes.....	6,156	4,820	4,868	4,891
Rams and wethers.....	1,211	530	516	504
Lambs.....	2,505	2,160	2,199	2,267
Total sheep....	9,872	7,510	7,585	7,662
<u>Goats.....</u>	1,416	1,297	1,294	1,285
<u>Horses.....</u>	2,692	2,397	2,380	2,333
<u>Mules.....</u>	135	91	90	88
<u>Asses.....</u>	185	104	102	101

1/ Preliminary

Source: Ministry of Agriculture

GERMAN CATTLE NUMBERS

UP; HOGS DOWN

German cattle numbers made a further slight increase over 1951 but are still only 96 percent of the 1935-38 average. All classes of cattle increased over 1951 in spite of short supplies of feed grains during the period and numbers of heifers and calves went up to about 4 percent above prewar. If feed conditions are favorable in the next 12 months it would appear that stock cow numbers will reach prewar levels.

Hog numbers dropped off slightly from the high levels reached in 1951 but are still about 4 percent above prewar. The reduction was expected following the period of abnormal marketings in 1951 when consumers demanded pork at any price, which reduced the number of sows going into 1952 by 62,000.

WESTERN GERMANY: Livestock numbers as of December 3, 1952,
with comparisons

Classification	Average 1935-38	1950	1951	1952 1/
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Cattle:				
Milk cows.....	5,990	5,734	5,804	5,817
Heifers.....	610	624	623	631
Other over 2 years.....	593	461	426	431
Yearlings.....	1,998	1,665	1,699	1,718
Calves.....	2,923	2,664	2,823	3,035
Total cattle....	12,114	11,148	11,375	11,632
Hogs:				
Sows.....	1,027	1,112	1,050	1,005
Boars.....	46	36	36	35
Slaughter hogs.....	3,825	3,014	3,688	3,560
Pigs under 6 months.....	7,596	7,728	8,829	8,372
Total hogs.....	12,494	11,890	13,603	12,972
Sheep.....	1,889	1,642	1,666	1,544
Goats.....	1,376	1,347	1,302	1,145
Horses.....	1,542	1,570	1,455	1,360
Mules and asses.....	2/	4	4	3

1/ Preliminary

2/ Not available

Compiled from official sources

SPICE PRODUCTION IN
MADAGASCAR IN 1952

Clove production in Madagascar in 1952 according to R. F. Andrews American Consulate, Tananarive was about 250 metric tons. 1/ In the 3-year cycle of the clove tree, 1952 was the bad year and to make matters worse, heavy rains during the flowering season caused considerable damage. The 1953 year is expected to be a year of peak production with estimates ranging from 5 to 7 thousand metric tons.

Vanilla production in Madagascar in 1952 was estimated at 200 metric tons; however, since prices are high, temptation to increase production will be strong.

Pepper production in 1952 was about 400 metric tons. French reliance on Madagascar pepper has increased since French Indochina production has been falling off. Production for 1953 is estimated at 450 metric tons and should increased plantings continue, by 1956 production should rise markedly.

1/ 1 metric ton equals 2,204.6 pounds.

SWEDISH REVENUE FROM TOBACCO INCREASES AS SALES RISE

Sweden's 1952 revenue from sale of tobacco products increase 15 percent over 1951, according to George Frostensen, American Embassy, Stockholm. Cigarette sales increase 16 percent in 1952 as compared with 1951, while sales of all other products except chewing tobacco increased slightly.

Sweden's revenue from tobacco sales in 1952 totaled 112.7 million U.S. dollars as compared with 96.7 million in 1951. This increase is primarily attributed to increased sales of tobacco products, however, average retail price increased 5 percent during 1952.

Sales of leading Swedish-made cigarettes, Bill, Boy, and Robin Hood, accounted for 3,914.0 million pieces of the 5,119.8 million pieces sold in 1952.

SWEDEN: Sales of tobacco products during 1952 with comparisons

Product	Unit	1951	1952	Percentage change
	Million:			
Cigarettes	pieces	4,414.9	5,119.8	+ 16
Cigars	"	20.1	20.5	+ 2
Cigarillos	"	103.9	113.5	+ 9
Smoking tobacco	1,000 lb	3,086.4	3,306.9	+ 7
Chewing tobacco	" "	77.2	75.0	- 3
Snuff	" "	6,393.2	6,613.8	+ 3

SWEDEN'S RAPESEED CROP EXPECTED TO BE DOWN IN 1953

Sweden's rapeseed crop apparently will be further reduced in 1953, according to acreage data received from Elmer A. Reese, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Stockholm. The fall seeding of rapeseed (including turnip-rape), which in the past 2 years has made up about 70 percent of the total area sown to this crop, amounted to 206,800 acres in 1952, or 12 percent below the 235,120 acres seeded in the fall of 1951. It would seem unlikely that the area to be planted to spring rapeseed will be large enough to offset the reduction in the winter seedings.

The decline in rape acreage since 1950 is due partly to a steady increase in insect damage, particularly in southern Sweden, and to a decrease in the profit to farmers from this crop. Because of insect damage, the cultivation of the crop has shifted northward and in this process the acreage has decreased. Another factor which has adversely affected the acreage planted to rape in recent years has been the decline in the price relationship of rapeseed to wheat. In 1949-50 the rape-wheat price ratio was 3.0 but by 1952-53 the ratio had declined to 1.67. In contrast to rapeseed, the fall seedings of wheat and rye in 1952 exceeded the previous year by about 25 percent.

Total production of rapeseed in Sweden in 1952, as formerly reported (see Foreign Crops and Markets of November 10, 1952, page 439), was 176,000 short tons against 233,000 tons in 1951. The preliminary forward price to be paid producers for the 1953 rape crop has been placed at 85 ore per kilogram (about 7.4 cents per pound) or somewhat less than the 90 ore per kilogram paid to farmers in 1952.

Because of the higher costs of agricultural production, average prices of farm products in Sweden in 1952 rose above the world level for the first time in 10 years.

Sweden is by far the largest exporter of rapeseed and rapeseed oil in the world. In 1951 exports of rapeseed and rapeseed oil from Sweden amounted to 93,720 and 15,261 tons, respectively, most of which went to Western Germany. Although complete data for 1952 are not yet available, unofficial January-September 1952 data indicate that rapeseed exports during this period were running about 30 percent below corresponding exports in 1951, while rapeseed oil exports were around 12 percent larger.

IRAQ DECONTROLS OLEO- MARGARINE IMPORTS

The importation of oleomargarine of all kinds into Iraq without an import license has been authorized by the High Supply Committee's Decision No. 141 of 1952, reports Burton Y. Berry, American Embassy, Baghdad. This decision was published in the Weekly Bulletin of the Baghdad Chamber of Commerce No. 119 of January 17, 1953.

The import into Iraq of vegetable oils of all kinds was banned at the beginning of 1951 to protect the national ghee (clarified butter) industry. This ban encouraged ghee producers during 1951 and 1952 to demand a high price--from 500 to 575 fils per kilogram (64 to 73 cents per pound)--for their product. As a step toward the reduction of the cost of living, the Government re-authorized the import of vegetable oils. This action is expected to reduce the price of ghee to bring it more in line with the appreciably lower price of vegetable oil.

NICARAGUA HARVESTS SMALLER SESAME CROP IN 1952-53

Nicaragua's sesame seed production from the 1952-53 crop is estimated at 11,200 short tons, a substantial decrease from the 16,390 tons produced in the preceding season, reports Richard C. Desmond, Agricultural Attache, Managua. The smaller production in 1952-53 is due partly to a reduction in acreage, as a result of the prevailing low prices for vegetable oil at the time of planting, and to lower yields. Cottonseed output, which declined somewhat less than sesame, amounted to 21,500 tons against 23,000 tons in 1951-52. Other fats and oils produced in Nicaragua in 1952 were palm oil-390 tons, butter-500 tons, and lard-2,400 tons.

(See next page)

Most of the current sesame seed crop already has been sold. The largest part, about 8,800 tons, went to Venezuela, leaving only about 2,200 tons still available for export. The prices obtained were rather disappointing, however, to both producers and dealers, and it is likely that there will be a further decrease in area sown in the next planting season.

Only about 5,500 tons of cottonseed have been sold, all to Japan, which so far this year has been the only country interested in buying the product. The prices being offered by Japanese buyers are low, and Nicaraguan exporters are reluctant to make further sales. It is likely, however, that most of the remaining cottonseed for export also will go to Japan. If cotton marketing in Nicaragua continues favorable, the area planted in cotton in 1953 will be maintained at least at the current level and may well be increased.

Nicaraguan exports of oilseeds, fats and oils during calendar year 1952 were as follows: sesame seed--19,632 tons; cottonseed--12,955; cottonseed oil--7; palm oil--18; and butter--66 tons. Most of the sesame seed went to Venezuela (12,122 tons) and the United States (4,472) while all but about 500 tons of the cottonseed was taken by Japan. Nicaraguan imports of fats and oils in 1952 consisted mainly of 165 tons of lard from the United States.

VENEZUELA'S SESAME CROP ESTIMATED AT 4,400 TONS

Venezuela's 1952-53 sesame crop is estimated at 4,400 short tons, half of which was produced on the Paraguana Peninsula, Falcon, reports James H. Kempton, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Caracas. The Paraguana Peninsula is the locality where sesame is harvested by machete. In Portuguesa the planting of sesame is mechanized and the crop usually is harvested with modified wheat binders. In 1951 sesame production in Venezuela amounted to about 3,300 tons.

Producers are worried about price. Moreover, sesame imports from Nicaragua have been authorized, duty free, and this sesame is costing crushers 700 bolivars per metric ton (\$190 per short ton). The normal mill price for Venezuelan sesame has been 1,000 bolivars (\$270) and producers are expecting the Ministry of Development to decree that crushers must purchase all local seed at 1 bolivar per kilogram (13.5 cents per pound) as a prerequisite for duty free imports. As yet no action has been taken.